

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 CAB-09 COME-00 EB-11 FAA-00 SY-10

USSS-00 IO-13 OIC-04 INRE-00 RSR-01 /137 W

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O R 040800Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 566

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 9064

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ICAO, ETRN

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: ROME ICAO ASSEMBLY/DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE--
IMPRESSIONS

PLEASE PASS TO: LITTELL/CAB; DRISCOLL/DOT; STEWARD/FAA
MONTREAL FOR US REP ICAO
FROM AMBASSADOR ROUNTREE

1. FOLLOWING ARE OUR IMPRESSIONS ON PROCEEDINGS IN ROMEASSEMBLY/
CONFERENCE AT END OF FIRST WEEK:

2. AFTER HEATED PROCEDURAL DEBATE IN CONFERENCE AUGUST 29
(REPORTED SEPTTEL) AND STRESSFUL DELIBERATIONS ON ISRAELI ITEM IN
ASSEMBLY AUGUST 30, CONFERENCE ATMOSPHERE AUGUST 31 WAS GENERALLY
CONSTRUCTIVE AND POSITIVE.

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3. CONTRARY TO PAST EXPERIENCES, BOTH FRENCH (GUILLAUME) AND

UK (KEAN) PLAYED IMPORTANT AND HELPFUL ROLE IN ENSURING CONFERENCE OPEN TO MEMBERS OF PUBLIC AND PRESS. GUILLAUME INITIALLY PROPOSED THAT ROOM BE CLEARED OF NON-DELEGATES SO THAT VOTE COULD BE HELD ON THIS MATTER. THERE WAS BRIEF RECESS DURING WHICH TIME USDEL, SOVDEL AND OTHERS SIMILARLY INCLINED LOBBYED ACTIVELY FOR OPEN MEETINGS. GUILLAUME INITIALLY APPEARED TO FAVOR CLOSED MEETINGS AND APPARENTLY WAS CONVINCED IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH CONFERENCE PRESIDENT (SCIOLLA LA GRANGE WHO HAS SOUGHT AND RECEIVED OUR VIEWS) THAT THIS WOULD BE SERIOUS ERROR. UNITED POSITION OF USDEL AND SOVDEL MAY ALSO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO HIS CHANGE OF MIND. IN ANY EVENT ONCE MEETING WAS DECLARED BY PRESIDENT TO BE IN CLOSED SESSION GUILLAUME HIMSELF PROPOSED THAT MEETING BE OPEN UNLESS AT LATER TIME DECISION WAS TAKEN TO CLOSE IT. FRANCOPHONE AFRICANS HAD APPARENTLY FAILED TO GET THE SIGNAL OR HAD THEIR OWN OPINIONS AND SERIOUS DEBATE PROCEEDED FOR SOME TIME UNTIL UKDEL KEAN AND NIGERIAL DEL MADE STRONG SPEECHES FAVORING OPENING OF MEETINGS. FRANCOPHONES THEN WITHDREW OBJECTIONS AND MOTION WAS CARRIED BY CONSENSUS. IN OTHER POTENTIALLY BURDENSOME PROCEDURAL ISSUES DEALT WITH AUGUST 31 UK AND FRENCH DELS APPEARED TO MAKE NO EFFORTS TO COMPLICATE OR IMPEDE CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS.

4. CHARACTER OF CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS CAN BE APPRECIATED BY THE EXPERIENCE PRIOR TO THE CONFERENCE DECISION ON SCHEDULING ITS WORK. SOVDEL AND USDEL IN CONSULTATION WITH CONFERENCE PRESIDENT HAD DECIDED UPON ALTERNATE DAY SCHEDULING FOR NEXT WEEK (PROTOCOL PROPOSALS -- ONE DAY, AND INDEPENDENT CONVENTION PROPOSALS - ANOTHER)

USDEL HAD LINED UP NIGERIAL SECONDER OF SOV MOTION AND USDEL WAS PREPARED TO SPEAK THIRD. WHEN CONFERENCE RECONVENED, HOWEVER, DEBATE IMMEDIATELY GOT UNTRACKED, THEN PROCEEDED FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE HOUR WITH SOV AND US STATEMENTS ONLY TWO OF MANY, UNTIL REPRESENTATIVE OF QATAR STATED THAT PROCEEDING WAS BECOMING REMINISCENT OF LEGAL COMMITTEE MEETING WITH ITS ENDLESS INCONSEQUENTIAL DEBATES AND CALLED UPON CONFERENCE PRESIDENT TO SCHEDULE THE WORK AS HE SAW FIT. THIS WAS GREETED BY NEAR UNANIMOUS APPLAUSE AND PRESIDENT PROMPTLY SCHEDULED CONFERENCE TO CONSIDER PROTOCOL PROPOSALS TUESDAY AND INDEPENDENT CONVENTION PROPOSALS THURSDAY AND TO REVIEW FUTURE SCHEDULING ON LATTER DAY.

5. TO DATE COOPERATION BETWEEN SOV AND US DELS ON PROCEDURAL ISSUES
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(EXCLUDING ISRAELI ITEM OF COURSE) HAS BEEN CLOSE. DURING ASSEMBLY DEBATE ON ISRAELI ITEM UK/US/CANADIAN COOPERATION WAS VERY GOOD.

6. FOLLOWING DISPOSITION OF ISRAELI ITEM, ATTITUDE OF ARAB DELS TO US HAS BEEN CONSTRUCTIVE. LEBANESE DEL HADDAD APPROACHED INDIVIDUALLY BOTH AMBASSADOR ROUNTREE AND HUFFMAN TO INDICATE HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO COOPERATE AS CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE FOR BALANCE OF CONFERENCE/ASSEMBLY

WITH USDEL. ON PROCEDURAL ITEMS THIS HAS ALREADY BEEN APPARENT. QATAR DEL GAYED (SECRETARY-GENERAL OF ARAB LEAGUE CIVIL AVIATION GROUP) ADVISED HUFFMAN THAT US WOULD FIND ARAB DEL'S ATTITUDE DIFFERENT THAN THAT PREVIOUSLY EXPERIENCED NOTING THAT ARABS HAD COME IN HOPES OF DEVELOPING EFFECTIVE LEGAL MEASURES TO DETER HIJACKING/SABOTAGE. GAYED SAID ARAB DELS CURRENTLY FAVORED INCORPORATION OF PROVISIONS OF THOSE CONVENTIONS INTO CHICAGO AS PROPOSED BY UK/SWISS/FRENCH AND REGARDED INDEPENDENT CONVENTION PROPOSALS AS TOO COMPLICATED AND INEFFECTUAL SINCE THEIR OPERATION WOULD HAVE TO REQUIRE THE CONSENT OF THE STATE IN DEFAULT AND WOULD IN ANY EVENT BE RESTRICTED TO INVESTIGATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS. THIS BEING SAID, HOWEVER, HE ASSURED THAT ARAB DELS HAD NOT REJECTED INDEPENDENT CONVENTION YET AND HAD COME PREPARED TO LISTEN AND PERHAPS BE CONVINCED OF MERITS OF CONVENTION PROPOSAL.

7. ALSO IN AFTERMATH OF DISPOSITION OF ISRAELI ITEM, ISRAELI AMBASSADOR NAJAR AUGUST 31 APPROACHED HUFFMAN AND CORDIAL CONVERSATION

ENSUED. NAJAR SAID HE WAS NOT CONVINCED THERE HAD BEEN SUBSTANTIAL RISK OF SOUTH AFRICAN-TYPE SANCTION AGAINST ISRAEL BUT HE DID NOT DEMUR TO HUFFMAN'S STATEMENT THAT USDEL FIRMLY BELIEVED THAT SUCH MOVEMENT WAS AFOOT AND, UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES, HAD SOUGHT TO AVOID ANY SUCH POSSIBILITY BY USING LEVERAGE IT HAD WITH LEBANESE. NAJAR AGREED WITH HUFFMAN'S ASSERTION THAT USDEL HAD ACTED UPON WHAT IN ITS JUDGMENT WAS IN BEST INTERESTS OF BOTH ISRAEL AND THE UNITED STATES. NAJAR SEEMED SURPRISED WHEN HUFFMAN INFORMED HIM THAT PRESIDENT BINAGHI HAD ALREADY DEPARTED FOR HAWAII AND HE AGREED THAT THIS WAS SOUND REASON FOR DISPOSING OF AGENDA ITEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SINCE ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT DIALLO HAD BEEN CO-SPONSOR AND STRONG ADVOCATE OF LEBANESE RESOLUTION. OTHER ISRAELI DEL MEMBERS WITH EXCEPTION OF DEPUTY UN PERM REP BARMORE HAVE BEEN CORDIAL AND APPARENTLY UNDERSTANDING. BARMORE EXPRESSED BITTERNESS ABOUT US ACTIONS IN ASSEMBLY
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AND STATED TO USDEL MEMBER HE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED ISRAEL TO HAVE BEEN PLACED IN SAME STATUS AS SOUTH AFRICA AND PORTUGAL RATHER THAN TO HAVE US ASSOCIATE ITSELF WITH THIRD CONDEMNATORY RESOLUTION. BARMORE'S ATTITUDE WAS NOT SHARED BY AMBASSADOR NAJAR IN AMBASSADOR ROUNTREE'S CONSULTATIONS WITH HIM AS MATTERS WERE PROGRESSING BEFORE VOTE ON RESOLUTION, ALTHOUGH NAJAR UNDERSTANDABLY WAS UNHAPPY WITH SITUATION.

8. IN SUMMARY, AT END OF FIRST WEEK OF MEETINGS, ATMOSPHERE HERE SEEMS SOMEWHAT MORE PROMISING T 73 ROME 9064

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